



March 6, 2012

Dear Chairman Doyle, Taborsak and the Members of the General Law Committee:

In Waterbury, in the early morning hours of February 13, 2011, Christopher W. Colgan, age 19, collapsed suddenly and died. Autopsy results showed no abnormalities to his heart, brain or vital organs. Toxicology reports came back negative. The official cause of death was ruled "undetermined" by the State of Connecticut Medical Examiner's Office. However, according to the police investigation and witness accounts, Christopher drank between 3 and 4 *Monster* energy drinks throughout the day of February 12, 2011. Chris consumed the larger sized beverage which actually represents 2 servings per can making Chris' total consumption somewhere between six and eight servings.

Christopher was our only son and we are completely devastated by his loss. We are left with so many unanswered questions as to how and why this happened to us. But, along with this comes our absolute conviction that energy drinks caused his death.

Energy drinks contain excessive levels of caffeine and some also contain the herbal stimulants **Taurine** and **Guarana** for which little is known about the amounts, effects or origins since they are unregulated by the FDA.

There is a mountain of growing evidence, for anyone to easily access via blogs and online searches, which documents individual testimonials and medical findings of the harmfulness of energy drinks. Yet, it is a billion dollar industry specifically marketed to teenagers, our teenage boys in particular; with little or no restrictions. Something needs to be done to protect our children from these dangers.

We are here to voice our support for House Bill 5360 Section 1 which would adopt new regulations to prohibit the sale of certain dangerous or potentially dangerous substances to persons under the age of eighteen years – including energy drinks containing excessively high levels of caffeine, caffeine derivatives, guarana or taurine.

As a family that has been personally impacted by the danger of energy drinks, we would ultimately seek a complete ban to any person under the age of 21 years; or FDA regulation of the entire industry. However, this bill represents an important first step in that direction. Please support this bill to prevent more families from suffering the loss and sadness that we now live with every day. Thank you.

Marion and Bill Colgan
154 East Mountain Road
Waterbury, CT 06706
203-756-1573